

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the text, beginning at line 20 on page 24, and ending at line 39 on page 25, has been amended to add the previously omitted SEQ ID NOs to each nucleotide sequence that is ten or more nucleotides in length and each peptide sequence that is four or more amino acids in length, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821. Also pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821, Appendix I on pages 31-32 and Tables I, II, and III on pages 33-68 have been amended to add the previously omitted SEQ ID NOs.

The Examiner has objected to Applicants' election filed 02/04/03 (paper no. 17). The Examiner states that the election is not responsive to the Office Action mailed 12/04/02 (paper no. 15) because Applicants' provisionally elected protein sequence from Table II, falling within the provisionally elected invention of group (2), is not present in Table II. Applicants have amended Table II to add the appropriate sequence identifier (SEQ ID NO: 26) and to delete the terminal residue, "Z", which corresponds to a stop codon and was inadvertently included in the Table. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment and submit that the above amendment does not constitute new matter.

Applicants thus renew their provisional election of the following protein sequence from Table II, which falls within the provisionally elected invention of group (2):

MGIALEVNFTYQEGTPLASAALSDVSLTIEDGSYTALIGHTGSGKSTIL
QLLNGLLVPSQGSVRVFDTLITSTSKNDIRQIRKQVGLVFQFAENQIFE
ETVLKDVAFGPQNFGVSEEDAVKTAREKLALVGIDESLFDRSPFELSGG
QMRRVAlAGILAMEPAILVLDEPTAGLDPLGRKELMTLFKKLHQSGMTI
VLVTHLMDDVAEYANQVYVMEKGRLVKGGKPSDVQDVFVVFMEEVQL
GVPKITAFCKRLADRGVSFKRLPIKIEEFKESLNG

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes the Examiner's objection because Applicants' provisionally elected protein sequence now perfectly corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 26 in Table II. In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If after this amendment there are issues remaining which discussion could advance prosecution, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner call the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed.

Dated: February 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Laurence H. Posorske
Registration No. 34,698
David A. Kelly
Registration No. 53,106

HUNTON & WILLIAMS
1900 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109
Telephone: (202) 955-1960
Facsimile: (202) 778-2201